?22 Oct 1911

Sunday.

My Billy.

I can only scribble a few lines at a cafe as usual after dining with Simon Bussy. We spend our days seeing pictures & people. Yesterday we saw a great many superb Cézannes which I enjoyed more than anything else we have done. I have had your letters & find the Burnswick Sq. house. It sounds very good if you can really make it into flats. How would it be to have me several each. & do cooking & everything for their own master. It is time I

in the basement. But there's not much good offering suggestions at this distance when all your ideas may have changed by the time you get this. I expect you will get a house. Rooms seem to expensive or not good enough.

I haven't got round yet to that 2 in music if I can without your head at hand. Its very kind of you to take the trial for a treat. I heard that he was very much excited at the prospect.

I must stop - they're all talking so much. I'm quite well & enjoying my

P.S. Wheel a while you seem to be in.

Yours V.B.

TELEPHONE 6247 CITY.

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Sunday.

My Billy -

We have just returned from Asheham where I hope you will think we did a great deal of work. We put down the matting - perhaps not quite professionally but, tile passably. & I put up the curtains. I told Mrs F. that you might be going there on Wednesday but I wasn't certain & said you would let her know. Also you want more coffee & bath mats. I couldn't get them as we

had such a rush for the train today. I hope you'll be able to get a ride and find it all comfortable enough but I feel a little doubtful about the food question. You'll find the dining room curtains half made. Don't try to finish them as they're wrong at present & must be altered before proceeded with.

Roger didn't come. So we were Clive, Duncan, Adrian, Leonard & myself. It was quite successful I think though the weather

wasn't it - the best - but they were all in good spirits & Clive & Adrian spent [illegible] arguing with Leonard. You wouldn't have understood it - & I didn't attend to much of it. Will Jean let me know what Savage says about you & whether you're going to see another doctor. I can't come tomorrow as she will have told you. as I am lunching with Eily & there's a meeting of Roger's group here at 5. & I must be here for it. I seem to be plunging into society this week - going to tea with Isabel Fry & the Rawsleys & having a

dinner here. but none of it is very exciting. Wattie wants to ask me how you are.

I shall come to Ashcombe on Saturday & stay till Tuesday I think. Will that be all right? Jean said she couldn't stay over the week end but perhaps she will. I expect I'd better bring my NYPL Adrian Hadent I?

The country was lovely - all the elm trees in red blossom & the birds singing like June

K.B.

Box 9/12

Telegraph and Station } Seend.

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Wednesday.

My Billy.
I told my domestics to take round to you some very dull presents — more diversions than presents in fact: I hope they'll take the day too. Clive & I also got you one of those night-caps, but unluckily the cord one was gone & this isn't nearly so nice & I'm afraid will be too small to be of any use. But keep it for your old age or for your next visit here. I haven't time to

write much tonight but
one day soon I'll try to send
you a faithful account of
a conversation. only I'm
afraid it would turn out
just like any other. It
snowed all this morning
& I spent my time getting
together the necessary sketch
& materials for a picture
of chrysanthemums. I have
secured a dressing room to
work in & shall I hope
manage to find the time
short by dint of trying to
get a painting finished
before we go. Julian is off

course a great success & Claudian has been fairly well behaved. Think of my feelings last night when I found that a large tube of white paint had burst covering all my clothes with white paint.

I suppose you are still in the midst of packing & excitements & probably rather muddle headed. Do go away as soon as you can & let me know your address. I really think you ought to have at least 10 days away even if it does bore you. I should think it heaven to be away alone compared with this so surely you can stand it.

I had a letter from Savage saying he had wanted to see me about you but evidently came before he went away. So I suppose I shall see him when we go back

How is Duncan & have you seen any one of interest? I wonder if Roger is becoming a bore. She worked me pretty strong.

I will try to write a slightly less scrappy letter tomorrow.

V.W.

NYPL

Rodmell 9/22

Telegraph and Station } Seend.

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Dec. 24.

My Billy.

We have heard from Chesterton's making a definite offer for H.P.S. They offer £250 a year for 14 or 21 years, the rent not to begin for 1 year from February next. We are also to pay £35 in cash for putting in a new stove. As this offer is about what we expected & as they wanted an immediate answer to their letter which of course had

to be forwarded. We have telegraphed to accept. I hope you & Adrian will agree. I think we had better pay the £93 out of the Emperor's Sale money as that would otherwise probably lie idle for some time. It is rather a mercy to think that the house is tenanted for at least 14 years to come & from next year we shall each have a clear £80 a year extra income.

Yours visit to Barbara made

melancholy. Did I tell you that Violet's latest piece of medical gossip was that Katie Fry is ill again & that they also wont have been inoculated? Violet thought them quite right as she said that not enough was yet known about these things.

Your telegram has just come. I am glad you have gone away & wonder whether you are alone or have a male escort. Anyhow it will be divine at Leland. You might find out all about prices there. For we were talking the other day of a possible Friday to Tuesday there in early spring. I expect it is much better than the

Lizard if it isn't too much
over-run by softers. It is
really very beautiful here at
this moment. This country is
at its best in winter. I find
that one advantage of ad-
vancing middle-age is that
one finds more & more beauty
in unexpected things. I can't
stand by ice things I want
to paint. Almost any acci-
dental shadow seems to me
interesting. There are two
waits! Good God. Julian
astonished & I think rather
annoyed Mr & Mrs Bell this
evening by shrieking out with
shrieks of laughter "Good
Lord! Good Lord!" I was
only thankful it wasn't
"Good God" or damn.

Yrs
V.B.

NYPL

Rec'd 9/27